

***DRAFT***  
**MINUTES**  
**STATE CONSERVAITON COMMISSION**

October 26<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>, 2004  
CARSON VALLEY INN  
1627 U.S. HIGHWAY 395 NORTH  
MINDEN, NV

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2004 by Chairman James Settlemeyer. Self-introductions of those present as follows:

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

James Settlemeyer, Gardnerville  
Vance Vesco, Winnemucca  
Judy Currier, Las Vegas  
Sterling Wines, Ely  
John O'Brien, Department of Agriculture  
Joe Sicking, Winnemucca

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Howard Glancy, Dayton Valley  
Dr. Rangesan Narayanan, UNR, College of Agriculture  
Keith Whipple, Hiko

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Pamela B. Wilcox, Executive Secretary to the Commission  
Sandi Gotta, Nevada Division of Conservation Districts  
Kelly McGowan, Nevada Division of Conservation Districts  
Chris Freeman, Nevada Association of Conservation Districts  
Ken Thompson, Fallon  
Dan Kaffer, NRCS/WNRC&D  
Nick Pearson, Reno

## **II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS - \*ACTION\***

- a. James opened the floor for nominations. Joe nominated James for Chairman, Vance seconded and motion passed. Joe moved to close nominations, Vance seconded and motion passed.
- b. Vance nominated Keith Whipple to continue as vice-chair, Joe seconded and motion passed. Joe made a motion to close nominations, Vance seconded and motion passed.

## **III. REVIEW, AMMENDMENT & APPROVAL OF MINUTES – \*ACTION\***

- a. John made a motion to approve the June 17<sup>th</sup> minutes, Vance seconded and motion passed.
- b. Joe made a motion to approve the July 27<sup>th</sup> minutes, Vance seconded and motion passed.

## **IV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment.

## **VII. INTERNAL DIVISION REPORTS**

- A. Status of the Division of Conservation Districts:
  - a Ms. Wilcox gave a brief update on the division's budget and on the new building the department will be moving into in June, 2005.
  - b The tort insurance premiums have been included in the division's budget. Another issue is whether or not district supervisors have to file a financial disclosure statement with the Secretary of State. The attorney general's office has assured staff that no action will be taken against any supervisors who have not filed a financial disclosure statement this year, if it is determined that they are required to file.
  - c Kelly updated the commission on district meetings. Kelly said it was still a bit early in the new fiscal year so it does not appear like the districts have had much activity. But so far they have been doing well in sending their agendas and minutes to the division.
  - d Sandi handed out a memo from Deputy Attorney General, Wayne Howle regarding the Open Meeting Law. The gist of the memo which is addressed to ALL public bodies is, that items on agendas need to be "clear and complete detail". The memorandum will be mailed out to all the districts.

## **VII. REPORTS TO THE COMMISSION (limited to 5 minutes)**

- a *Department of Conservation & Natural Resources – Allen Biaggi was not present.*
- b *Department of Agriculture – John O'Brien updated:*
  - 1. The Department of Agriculture has a new Deputy Director, Rick Gimlin.

2. The Board of Agriculture will be meeting in Las Vegas on December 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, topics of discussion will be current issues such as the West Nile virus.
  3. This year they have been very successful in controlling Mormon crickets.
- c *University of Nevada, Reno – Dr. Rangesan Narayanan was not present.*
  - d *Natural Resource Conservation Service – Livia Marques was not present.*
  - e *Farm Service Agency – Roger Van Valkenburg was not present.*
  - f *Nevada Association of Conservation Districts – President, Chris Freeman updated:*

Chris reported on a tour with national representatives from NACD (National Association of Conservation Districts) and BLM (Bureau of Land Management). Those who attended included: Krysta Harden, CEO, NACD; Katherine Clark, BLM, Washington D.C.; Deb Bogar, NACD; Sara Braasch, Regional Assistant Chief, NRCS; and Allen Biaggi, Director, NV Dept. of Conservation & Natural Resources. The tour was a good opportunity to discuss issues in the west with national representatives from Washington D.C.

Chris reported that there may be more weed and water quality funds available from NRCS' grant program. Livia had relayed that the request for proposals would be open again in a few weeks. Sandi added that she requested of NRCS that the announcements allow as much time as possible for CDs to prepare an application.

Chris reported that national weed legislation might provide Cooperative Weed Management Areas with several million dollars.

Chris announced Ray Ledgerwood as the commission's facilitator for their long-range plan.

Chris said that the NRCS Regional Assistant Chief, Sarah Braasch, suggested that a letter be sent to Bruce Knight, Chief, NRCS, suggesting what kind of qualifications the commission and the districts would like to see in the new state conservationist. The Commission asked staff to prepare a letter to Chief Knight.

## **VII. DETERMINATION OF STANDING OF RUBY VALLEY CD (548.090)**

### **\*ACTION\***

- a *Division staff review of Ruby Valley CD's records:* Kelly talked about the letter that Ruby Valley sent to the commission concerning their current status. Kelly also said that he and Sandi have seen every indication that Ruby Valley CD was trying to spend their funds up to the \$10,000 and do everything that is required of a district. It was unfortunate that the third meeting could not be held due to lack of

quorum and was too late in the fiscal year to schedule another meeting. This new fiscal year Ruby Valley CD is already ahead in their meetings, they have their third meeting scheduled in November for their upcoming elections. Kelly also told the commission that he and Sandi would spend time with them and assist them in the areas they may need assistance with.

*b Public Hearing:* James opened a public hearing. No public presented comment, therefore James announced the public hearing closed.

*c Conservation Commission Discussion:* The commission discussed the determination of Ruby Valley. Ms. Wilcox reviewed NAC 548.090 *“Determination of whether conservation district is in good standing: Procedure; effect.”*

*1. The commission, at a regular meeting, will request the division to review the records of each conservation district that are maintained by the division and advise the commission concerning which conservation districts appear to be in good standing.*

*2. If it appears to the commission that there is evidence that a conservation district is not in good standing:*

*a. The commission will request the division to notify the conservation district that there is evidence that it is not in good standing.; and*

*b. The commission will schedule the determination of the status of the conservation district for the next regularly scheduled public meeting of the commission.*

*3. Upon receiving a notice from the division that there is evidence that it is not in good standing, a conservation district may respond to the commission in writing within 60 days after receiving the notice, or attend the determination hearing at the next regularly scheduled public meeting of the commission, or both.*

*4. The commission will make a final determination as to whether the conservation district is in good standing after it reviews the evidence and hears testimony at its next regularly scheduled public meeting.*

*5. If the commission determines that a conservation district is not in good standing, it will:*

*a. Place the conservation district on a list which makes it ineligible for grant programs administered by the commission;*

*b. Notify the Natural Resource Conservation Service that the conservation district is not in good standing; and*

*c. Ask the conservation district if it wishes to be discontinued or consolidated with another conservation district. The commission may assist the conservation district by following the procedures for discontinuance as set forth in NRS 548.030.*

Staff had reviewed Ruby Valley’s records and gave their recommendation to the commission.

*d Commission Determination:* Joe made a motion to find Ruby Valley Conservation not in good standing per NAC 548.090. Vance seconded the motion. Motion passed.

*e Direction of Staff for Implementation of Statute:* Kelly pointed out to the commission that due to their determination, there would be an

excess of \$5,000.00 in grant funds available in the budget. The commission instructed staff to distribute funds according to the commission's written procedures.

## **VIII. OLD BUSINESS –**

- A. *Update from Ken Thompson on the status of a proposed funding program to manage invasive plants through the Nevada Department of Transportation's vehicle registration management of invasive plants.*

*\*ACTION\**

Ken Thompson gave an update on the status of the proposed funding program to manage invasive plants through the Nevada Department of Transportation's vehicle registration fees. The bill was well received and well supported by the Farm Bureau, the Cattlemen's Association, and the Nevada Tax Payer's Association. However, the legal department from the Nevada Legislature called Ken and he was told that fees collected for motor-vehicle registrations are to be used for repairs on public highways only. Bob Abbey, NV BLM, suggested the program could be funded under NAACO. Bob said he may be able to assist and will follow-up with Ken in 1-2 months.

- B. *Update on possible meeting with NDOW about Compensatory Wildlife Damage Programs.* *\*ACTION\**

Kelly mentioned Tonopah Conservation District's letter in support to the commission's efforts in meeting with NDOW concerning Compensatory Wildlife Damage Programs. Kelly also said that NDOW's Habitat Bureau Chief, Doug Hunt said that there was a bill submitted to the legislature to review the Compensatory Wildlife Damage. He also suggested that the commission attend a wildlife commission meeting in December.

## **IX. NEW BUSINESS –**

- A. Possible action on conservation commission business plan.  
*This item was moved to the second part of the meeting, which was the business meeting with Ray Ledgerwood.*

## **X. STAFF ITEMS – Division Staff Comments**

- A Sandi reported on her recent travel to the NACD meeting in Alaska last September. She also talked about the tour with the BLM. Sandi stated that providing training to all districts is a priority for the division.
- B Kelly talked about his attendance at the NASCA meeting in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

## **XI. COMMISSIONER ITEMS**

There were no additional commissioner items.

**XII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no additional public comment.

**XIII. ADJOURN – \*ACTION\***

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm.

**BUSINESS MEETING RECONVENED AT 1:00 pm.**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

James called the meeting back to order at 1:10 pm.

**II. REVIEW AND REVISE COMMISSION STRATEGIC PLAN & POSSIBLE DEVELOPMENT OF A BUSINESS (RAY LEDGERWOOD)**

The NV State Conservation Commission spent the remainder of the day developing a new 5-year Strategic Plan and developed a Business Plan. All materials and decisions are attached or are available from the Div of CDs office.

**III. ADJOURN TO RECONVENE AT THE WATERFORD –DONEGAL ROOM ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2004 AT 4:00 PM. – \*ACTION\***

The business meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.

## **I CALL TO ORDER**

James called the meeting to order at 5:10 pm.

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

James Settelmeyer, Gardnerville  
Howard Glancy, Dayton Valley  
Don Henderson, Department of Agriculture  
Judy Currier, Las Vegas  
Sterling Wines, Ely  
Dr. Rangesan Narayanan, UNR, College of Agriculture  
Joe Sicking, Paradise Valley

### **MEMBERS ABSENT**

Keith Whipple, Hiko  
Vance Vesco, Winnemucca

### **OTHERS PRESENT**

Pamela B. Wilcox, Executive Secretary to the Commission  
Chris Freeman, President of NvACD  
Kelly McGowan, Division of Conservation Districts  
Sandi Gotta, Division of Conservation Districts  
Ana J. Jimenez, Division of Conservation Districts

## **II. OLD ITEMS CONTINUED – \*ACTION\***

Judy made a motion to accept the new business plan. Joe seconded the motion, motion passed.

## **III. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. *Consideration of resolution approved and submitted by the Nevada Association of Conservation Districts. – \*ACTION\**  
Joe made a motion for the chairman to research and support Resolution **2004-1**. Resolution 2004-1 was submitted by Nevada Tahoe Conservation District. The resolution requests a change in Nevada Revised Statutes to allow the Commission to receive and administer grants to CDs. Judy seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- B. *Consideration of other items requested by the Nevada Association of Conservation Districts or state related items. – \*ACTION\**  
There were no other items for consideration from NvACD.

## **IV. COMMISSIONER ITEMS – Commissioner comments and reports**

- A. James/Judy requested the commission's support with NvACD's new business plan.
- B. James asked the division staff to write a letter to NRCS, on behalf of the commission in support with the hiring process of a new state conservationist.

**V. STAFF ITEMS – Division Staff Comments**

There were no staff comments.

**VI. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment.

**VII. NEXT COMMISSION MEETING**

A The next commission meeting will be in Carson City at the Nevada Division of Conservation Districts office.

B Items requested on the agenda by the commission: NDOW Compensatory Wildlife Damage.

**VIII. ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00pm.